REMARKS

The Office Action of April 5, 2005, objected to the specification for inconsistent use of number "4". The specification has been amended in response to this objection. Additionally, Examiner inquired whether the numeral "45" for preservation fluid is found in any of the Figures. The number "45" for preservation fluid is found in Figure 9.

The Office Action also pointed out that a lead line from numeral 14 was missing in Figure 1. Figure 1 has been amended to include the omitted lead line.

The Office Action further objected to Claim 7 for informalities in line 7. The claim 7 has been revised to reflect the suggested the change.

The Office Action rejected Claims 9 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamaguchi (U.S. Pat. No. 5,495,272) in view of Kobayashi et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,338,539). Claim 16 was rejected as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) over Yamaguchi in view of Kobayashi et al. and further in view of Mausner et al. Claim 17 was rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Yamaguchi in view of Kobayashi et al. and further in view of RD 194011 A. Claim 19 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Yamaguchi in view of Kobayashi and further in view of Inoue et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,619,237). Claims 10 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kodama (U.S. Pat. No. 4, 356,499) in view of Hobson et al. (U.S. Pat.

No. 6,199,979). Claims 1-8 and 12-14 were allowed and Claims 11 and 18 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

The applicants believe Claims 9 and 15 are non-obvious over the references as discussed below.

Yamaguchi discloses that the cleaning solution discharge outlet 6 for discharging the cleaning solution is formed at the common ink chamber 15. The cleaning solution filled in the common ink chamber 15 is discharged from the cleaning solution discharge outlet 6. Claims 9 and 15 of the present application differ from Yamaguchi in that the preservation fluid 45 filled in the buffer tank 5 is introduced into the ink jet head 2 and is discharged from the ink jet head 2 to make the head unit 1 ready for use. Further, the preservation fluid 45 in the present invention is used for permeating ink to ink jet head 2. On the other hand the cleaning solution in Yamaguchi is used for removing the foreign matters 25 from the common ink chamber 15. Thus, the intended purposes of the preservation fluid 45 and the cleaning solution are different.

Kobayashi discloses that the ink cartridges of the printer are filled with a liquid for shipping. By filling the ink cartridges with a liquid, the print heads do not become dried and clogged with dust. The shipping liquid is completely removed from the ink cartridge before the first use of the printer. Thus, it is clear that the shipping liquid is filled in the print head, but Kobayashi does not disclose where the shipping liquid is discharged from. Additionally, Kobayashi does not disclose the configuration of the print head either. On the former point, Yamaguchi teaches that the cleaning solution should not be discharged from the orifices 11 (print head), because dust or foreign mattes coming in the ink chamber 15 during

manufacture block the ink supply passageway throttles 7, so that the ink is not smoothly jetted from the orifices 11 (print head).

Accordingly, Yamaguchi and Kobayashi do not show or suggest the specific feature of the present application, where the preservation fluid 45 filled in the buffer tank 5 is introduced into the ink jet head 2 and is discharged from the ink jet head 2 to make the head unit 1 ready for use. In claims 9 and 15 of the presently claimed invention, the preservation fluid 45 does not fill the ink jet head 2 during shipment. Because the ink jet head is not filled with the preservation fluid 45 during shipment, the preservation fluid 45 can not fall into or spill in the inside of the main body of the recording apparatus during unpacking and when inserted into the main body of the recording apparatus.

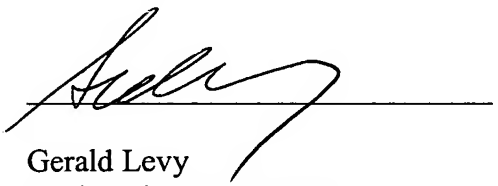
Applicants also believe Claims 10 and 20 are non-obvious over the references as discussed below.

Kodama discloses the basic configuration of Claims 10 and 20 of the presently claimed application. However, a suggestion or motivation to modify the ink manifold 26 to provide a filter for the front side wall 26c (where the coupling 27n is disposed) of the ink manifold 26 is not described in Kodama.

Hobson discloses the ink filter 8 for removing the contamination 10 from ink 6 in a cartridge of a printer. The ink filter 8 includes the microporous membrane 5 subjected to a process for enhancing hydrophilic properties. However, there is no suggestion or motivation whatsoever in Hobson or Kodama of using the filter 8 on a bottom lid member of a buffer tank.

Applicants respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Applicants do not believe that any fees are due. However, if any fees are due, please charge such sums to our Deposit Account 50-1145.

Respectfully submitted,



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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 1. This sheet, which includes Figure 1, replaces the original sheet including Figure 1. In Figure 1, previously omitted lead line to numeral 14 has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

Annotated Sheet
Showing changes

FIG.1